

From: Laurent Tardif
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/15/02 7:44pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

i'm a research fellow at Monash university.
I read the judgement and all the informations given on the Proposed Final Judgement in the US v. Microsoft case on the java-sun web site.

I'm quiet surprise, that the judgement give only restriction to the midleware and OS issues.

The judgment doesn't give restriction on the key points, for my point of view.

I give a exemple.

i designed a plug-in to visio, a microsoft product.

To design this plugin, the documentation tell me that i can write my plugin in visual C++ or visual basic. Two microsoft languages. To write and complie such langage i needed to buy a license to be able to write the application. (at the same time, we can notice that the microsoft compiler for C or C++ langage doesn't not provide a full implementation of this langage, which decrease the possibility to compile an application wrtien in C under unix/linux on windows system).

After buying the Microsoft visual suite, i need to acces some API information, to do so, because the free information are useless i need to buy a license to access the developper web site of microsoft.

i used to use netscape to browse the web, the microsoft web site is unaccessible with this browser, most of the page are unreadable. So i need to set up internet explorer.

So, in conclusion, to write 200 lignes of code, i have to buy 3 microsoft licence, and install 4 microsoft products.

if that, is not taking advantage of the situation, what is it.

Also the judgement doesn't say a word on what Microsoft did on free-standard, like HTML, or XML today.

The free standard allows, in the idea, every body to access information, from every operating system, every browser.

But Microsoft doesn't provide a full implementation of these standards, and add some private extensions inside. The effect, is, the HTML (XML now) page written by Microsoft application is only readable under Microsoft.

Ask to people using Linux/Unix, how many HTML pages they can't read, because of some Microsoft features.

Also, nothing is said about the policy of Microsoft to provide free/cheap licence to school, university of Microsoft product. The effect, is that new student / child know only Microsoft product. And because when you buy a new computer you have Microsoft on, most of the people don't know they have other solutions.

Laurent

Laurent Tardif
Monash University
mailBox 36 - Building 26
School of Computer Science
and Software engineering
~ Clayton Victoria 3168
Australia
; Phone : (03) 99055779
; www.csse.monash.edu.au/~tardif/